

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed April 21, 2005. Claims 1-36 were rejected. Claims 29 and 30 have been amended. Claims 1-36 remain pending in the application.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action argued that the statutory class of claims 29 and 30 is inconsistent with the statutory class of the parent claims. Applicant has amended claims 29 and 30 to remove the references to other claims and therefore to clarify the statutory class of the claims. As the newly added limitations in claims 29 and 30 are similar to those of pending claim 21, no new matter has been introduced. In light of the claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §112 rejections.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-11, 13-15, and 17-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thomlinson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,155), hereinafter "Thomlinson." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Anticipation under §102(b) requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claims. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As discussed below, Thomlinson fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicant's claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

1. A portable storage device containing network identification information for a processing unit that is connectable to a data communications network and includes a device reader for reading the portable storage device, the portable storage device comprising storage and an access controller, the storage holding a network identity for the processing unit and at least one encryption key, and the access controller being operable to control access to the storage by implementing key-key encryption.

Applicant respectfully submits that Thomlinson does not teach or suggest "a portable storage device containing network identification information" or "the portable storage device comprising storage ... the storage holding a network identity." Thomlinson discloses techniques for securely storing "core data secrets" (e.g., passwords, financial data, or other sensitive information) in a personal computer system. However, Thomlinson does not teach or suggest that core data secrets may include network identification information or a network identity.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Thomlinson does not teach or suggest "the portable storage device comprising ... an access controller" or "the access controller being operable to control access to the storage by implementing key-key encryption." Thomlinson's discussion of smart cards (e.g., col. 8, lines 13-19) does not teach or suggest an internal access controller or any other element which is operable to control access to the internal storage.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13, 21, 29, 30, and 31 are patentably distinct from Thomlinson. The dependent claims provide additional limitations to the independent claims and are patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomlinson in view of Cisco Systems, 1992. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Claims 12 and 16 are dependent claims which recite additional limitations to the independent claims discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 16 are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-36 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §112, §102(b), and §103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION

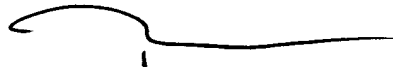
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5681-04200/BNK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,



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